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years say put important things first and that is something that may have to be learned, but each person will come to that conclusion sooner or later or else not be in the legislative body. I do not support the amendment offered us. It was meant as a compromise and it was meant as a tool to try and facilitate, but there needs to be the flexibility and not have to suspend rules for an important hearing because something else happened. I urge your support for the general permanent rules, but without this extended amendment and extended discussion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you, Senator Marsh. Senator McFarland, for the purpose of discussion of the amendment.

SENATOR MCFARLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I put my light on to speak about the amendment, the original amendment by Senator Morehead and I would defer talking about that until a later time. I don't want to discuss the Conway amendment right now. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you Senator McFarland. It is the Chair's understanding that Senator Withem also yields, would prefer to speak to the amendment. Next speaker, Senator Scofield, to the amendment to the amendment.

SENATOR SCOFIELD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to support Senator Conway's amendment and also to support the work that the Rules Committee is trying to do. The major task that faces us all here and continues to frustrate us is the simple fact that there are so many bills introduced and such a process of hearing them that the work load has become overwhelming and I commend the Rules Committee for their attempts to try to help us deal with that. I appreciate the comments that have been made on the floor here today about preserving the openness of the process, but I want to just cast a different light on this discussion and that is a process is not very open when it is so burdened with bills and so burdened with such a flurry of activity that one thing can be going on over here which takes a certain amount of time and attention away from other issues, and by failing to prioritize and by failing to put some constraints on ourselves, nothing really gets dealt with in a meaningful manner and everything can become, as we all know, toward the end of the year so disorganized that if you want the public to be able to follow that process, the way we do it now doesn't...it simply is not occurring often within the body. If you're tracking a certain set of issues on one hand, you're missing certain issues